OUR WEAPONS OF WARFARE



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இயேசு கிறிஸ்துவின் நாமத்தில் அன்பின் வாழ்த்துக்கள்

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Published by:
J. Sam Jebadurai,
50, Railway Station Road,
Kodambakkam, Madras 600 024.

First Edition - Sept'90

2000 copies

Rs 10/-

Laser Composing and Offset printing by:

Amsana Laser Printing System,

'Nandini Building', 59/2. Kodambakkam High Road,

T. Nagar, Madras 600 017 - Ph: 867646

DEDICATED

To the One Who loves-when nobody does

To the One Who cares-when others pass

To the One Who provides-when others deride

To the One Who on Calvary's Tree purchased Heaven's pardon for a sinner like me

Who by His Precious Blood has vanquished Sin, Sickness and Satan from my side

To the Mighty Conqueror - To the King of kings

To my lovely Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

To His Glory, to His praise and to His honour.

Amen! Alleluia!

Contents

Chapter 1

AH! MY BROTHER!

The time has arrived for us to gird ourselves with spiritual strength! The time to display our Holy Zeal for the Lord is here. Dear child of God! Oh! Warrior of Christ, you who are standing in the thick of the battle! Do you realize that today as never before are Christians faced with enmity and mounting opposition on every side? Do you not know? Can you not discern that Satan has marshalled his forces to desecrate our holiness, to quench our faith and to shatter our unity in Christ.

Do you wonder as to why these things happen? It is because we are now living in the last hour, the latter days. The end of this age is almost here! Hence the very Satan which sowed the seeds of bitterness and hatred in the heart of Cain against his brother Abel and thus killed him, is now risen up in all his fury and is sowing the seeds of discord and wrath a thousandfold more in the hearts of the unsaved everywhere! Remember, the Bible warns that Satan is roaming as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (1 Pet.5:8).

But, dear child of God! we have lost precious time and precious souls by our apathy, lethargy and sinful slumber. Our Lord in His boundless mercy has and is still keeping the doors of grace and the doors of Evangelism wide open in our land. But alas! We have spent our time in vain quarrellings and bickerings amongst ourselves; in ill-timed and misplaced loyalty to denominations rather than loyalty to our Lord; in absolute lack of love and despicable caste discriminations.

Why has not the mighty outpouring of the Spirit swept over our nation? Even after two thousand years of our Lord paying the price at Calvary, the long-awaited revival has not come! Why have not the people, in our cities and villages, come out by the thousands to bless and praise our Lord in the streets

and everywhere? Why has not the mighty revival as which broke out in Wales and Korea, come to our Land? Yes, and why do we soldiers of Christ stumble and stagger in the heat of the battle? Yes, dear child of God, this is our last chance to re-examine ourselves and plunge into active service for our Lord! Instead of shaking the very foundations and stronghold of the enemy in our land with our Lord's almighty power, we have merely listened to sermon after sermon, year after year and become sick of spiritual indigestion. We have failed to put faith into action and claim the nation for our Lord.

In the year 1979 alone, there have been nearly 12,000 converts from Christianity to other religions just for the sake of receiving scholarships and other such benefits given by the Government. Do you realize that in the past few years many societies have sprung up and many movements arisen against Christians and Christianity in our land and throughout the world.

The Battlefield And You

Remember dear Christian, that you are standing in a battlefield! The crucial hour, the last hour, has come when every Christian has to gird himself in his spiritual armour to battle against the dread forces of darkness and evil! Time is short; and time will be no more! I do not know whether Christians everywhere have realized this truth, but whether they have or not Satan surely knows this and is fervently engaged in unleashing the powers of hatred and opposition against the Christian in every walk of life.

St.Paul solemnly warns us that our warfare is against spiritual powers; "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places".

Yes, a spiritual war has to be fought and won!

Dear child of God, you who are standing in the midst of the fight, remember that your battle is not against flesh and blood; it is not even with the person who opposes you. He is but the arrow from the bow of the arch-enemy Satan! Our warfare is against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places! What are your weapons of warfare? Have you put on your spiritual armour? You have a solemn responsibility of guarding yours and yourself from the evil forces of Satan which encircle you! Have you ever stopped to think about this?

The Furnace Heated Sevenfold

The nations of the world together spend a fantastic sum of 660 crores of rupees per day on defence armaments alone! And as if this is not enough, the Super Powers of our earth have amassed a stock-pile of nuclear weapons powerful enough to destroy this planet Earth 40,000 times over and again. Moreover, they are also faced with the deadly problem of how to preserve them from blasting-off of their own by accident or fate.

In addition, godlessness like a deadly slithering serpent is silently swallowing whole nations alive; churches have lost their membership and in certain places have been mercilessly looted and ransacked; people are tortured, mutilated and killed for their faith. Not content with this, it marches on conquering, destroying and enslaving nations around the globe.

Emperor Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, ordered that the furnace be heated sevenfold hotter (Dan.3:19). But in our modern days, the furnace has been heated not sevenfold but seven thousandfold more hotter! Child of God, where are your weapons?

The weapons of our warfare and our defence does not lie at the point of a bayonet, nor does it lie in the arm of flesh, neither is it to be found in great riches or by the power of might. Our defence and our weapons of warfare are to be found in II Cor.10:4 where St.Paul states through the Holy Spirit thus "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds".

"Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ".

"Blessed be the Lord my strength, which teacheth my hands to war and my fingers to fight".

Our God is Almighty and of great power. He has crushed the head of Satan and claimed the victory by His holy atonement on the cross of Calvary. He is the Mighty Conqueror who leads us to victory in the battle! The Lord of Hosts who marched victoriously before the armies of Israel, is even now leading us in battle. Hence we can courageously claim the victory.

"And finally my brethren, be strong in the Lord and the power of His might" (Eph 6:10).

"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ".

Chapter 2

THE NAME OF THE LORD!

Every name has a personality of its own; the very mention of an individual's name conjures up mental images of the traits associated with that particular name. Every name has a dignity and honour of its own. In our land, even today many married women will never utter the name of their husbands. This is because of the respect and honour they have towards their husbands. If we delve deeply into the names of the saints of the Old and New Testaments we find that each name has a profound inner spiritual meaning behind it. Moreover, we also find that the Lord had used each person in a way that was in keeping in tune with the meaning of the name which he bore.

1. The name of our God

In the Book of Exodus Chap 3:15 we find the Lord God speaking to Moses thus "....Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, the Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob hath sent me unto you. This is my name forever and this is my memorial unto all generations".

The meaning of the word 'Lord' is "The Lord God, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in goodness and truth. It also means.....". The Lord Whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God. Therefore "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain". Exodus 20:7.

2. The weapon of David

The first king ever to use the Name of the Lord as a mighty weapon and get a complete victory in battle over the enemy was none other than king David. When he was but a lad he used the Name of the Lord as a weapon against the terrifying giant Goliath. "Then said David to the Philistine, thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts." I Sam 17:45.

The name of the Lord is not only a weapon of defence but also a weapon of offence. When David challenged giant Goliath, he said 'I come unto thee in the Name of the Lord of Hosts', thus it signifies that the presence of the Lord God had gone before David in a triumphant march paving the way to victory. David knew this truth, hence he could confidently say 'I have always set the Lord before me, and I shall never be moved'. Thus this vital truth was the secret of king David's success not only with giant Goliath, but accounts for all the amazing series of victories he gained throughout his life.

3. Pray in the name of Jesus

A very gifted and well-known evangelist was once invited to speak at a church in Madras. The church was overflowing with people. There was a sea of people everywhere!

The service started. But something went wrong with the amplifying system. Rumblings and jarring sounds were all that could be heard. Moreover, the 'mike' now and then emitted a screeching sound in the most annoying manner. Then a respectable gentleman in the audience complained quite audibly, "What a pity! The organisers of this service having done so much, could not get a better sound system". Hearing this, many other people in the congregation also

began to make other similar remarks. And thus a string of complaints followed.

Suddenly, amidst all this frettings and fumings against the organisers and against the sound system, a lady immediately went down on her knees and began to rebuke the devil in the Name of Jesus to get his infernal fingers off the sound system. Immediately, a miracle occured. All the mumblings and rumblings, and squeakings ceased. The voice of the man of God came through clearly and sweetly and the hearers were blessed!

[illegible]

Chapter 3

TEAR DROPS

There is an old Indian fable, rather a humourous one, about an old man and the tear drops he shed.

As the story goes, there once was an old man who lived in a village all by himself. He was so old that he had no family, relatives, friends or even acquaintances. This loneliness made the old man very, very sad. So brooding on his unhappy plight, he closed his eyes and began to cry. There was nobody to wipe his tears or comfort him in his sorrow. So he continued to cry and cry and the tears began to flow and flow. The tears flowed on and on till a very lake was formed out of the abundance of tear drops!

Gradually the birds, fishes and other such creatures began to take notice of this lake and came to live in it. Grass grew around this lake. Flowers also popped their heads and gaily danced in the breeze. All was happy and joyful around this lake.

Many years rolled by, but still this old man never opened his eyes and neither did he stop crying. Then suddenly one day, he felt the stirrings of life around him and opened his eyes. He was wonder-struck by what he saw! The beautiful lake, the singing birds, the flitting butterflies so filled him with happiness, that he stopped crying.

But as his tear drops stopped, the lake began to dry up. The fish in the lake gasped for life, the birds stopped their singing for thirst, and all were suffering. Then the crabs, fish and other creatures approached the old man and said "Oh! Ancient man, if you stop crying we will die. It is only because of your tears we are able to live" So the poor old man had no other way. So once more he closed his eyes and began to shed tears. Then

once again the lake filled up and life revived. So many creatures were able to live happily because of the old man's tears.

Of course, this is only a fable, but it does illustrate a profound truth. Out of the sanctified tears of anguish over lost souls, many can be redeemed and brought into God's fold.

The tears of the Heavenly Bridegroom:

Jesus, the Heavenly Bridegroom, the Lover of our souls, made intercession for us with strong crying and groans that could not be uttered. His sweat of blood was intermingled with tears, in the garden of Gethsemane.

Was it not our Heavenly Bridegroom who showed us what great things could be accomplished by our tears and prayers before the Father's Almighty throne? He loosened the hold of death's grim hand over Lazarus and brought him back to life, by His Holy Tears. 'Jesus wept' John 11:35. Though this is a very short verse, the powerful impact behind this short verse is great. Lazarus, who sprang to life because of our Lord's tears, was the instrument in leading many Jews to a faith in Lord Jesus!

To you, dear friend, who are dead in trespasses and sins, the tears of Jesus is still running like a river, pleading on your behalf! Therefore take heart and look up into the eyes of your loving Lord, who weeps for your salvation!

Seeing the City of Jerusalem, our Lord with His heart full of compassion and his eyes brimming with tears, wept over Jerusalem for the calamity that would follow the Holy City for rejecting the Lord. Thus he wept 'If thou hadst known, even thou at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! But now they are hid from thine eyes.' (Luke Chap 19:41-42) Ah! Let us join with Our Lord and weep for our nation! How many are the missionaries from foreign lands, who shed their blood and sweat in missionary toil, pouring their

very lives in service for our Lord so that we may be saved! Yet, in spite of all their sacrifices our nation has not attained salvation to the fullest! And the coming of our Lord is near!

Remember, dear child of God, our God is marking those faithful few with His seal, who sigh with tears and make intercession for the unrighteousness and sin to be found in the nation. In the book of Hebrews chap. 5:7 it is stated thus "who in the days of his flesh when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him, that was able to save him from death and was heard in that he feared!"

Meditate on the face of our Lord! He was called as the 'Man of sorrows' "....despised and rejected...." "....we esteemed him not ..." "....Stricken, smitten of God and afflicted..." (Isaiah 53:3,4,5) Oh! His eyes were like the eyes of the dove brimming with tears. His eyes were eyes of compassion and love, shedding tears for His people day and night! He alone is our Heavenly Lover, our Example and Guide, the compassionate One Who listens to our prayers and tears and hastens to answer it with inexpressible love and comfort! He alone can wipe away all our tears!.

Myrrh and Tears!

Incense in the Old Testament is a symbol or shadow of prayer in the life of a believer in New Testament times. Within this incense which was offered during sacrifice in olden days was a very important ingredient, namely myrrh. Myrrh was obtained by making a sharp incision or wound in the trunk of the myrtle tree. The sap which flowed out from the gash in the tree was myrrh. The chief qualities of myrrh is that it is soft to touch, bitter to taste but possesses a very sweet-smelling aroma! Thus myrrh can be linked to the intercessory prayer mingled with sanctified tears which is wrung out from the broken hearts of the saints!

Yes, remember, Hannah cried with bitterness and tears (I Sam. 1:10). Poor Hannah, her womb was shut and she had no child. Thus she was the object of shame and ridicule in the eyes of her husband's another wife. She had no one to whom she could pour out her grief and sorrow. She knew of no one from whom she could find solace. Hence, she hastened to the house of the Lord and there at the feet of the Lord, she poured out all her grief and sorrow with tearful prayers. In I Samuel 1:10 we see "And she was in bitterness of soul and prayed unto the Lord and wept sore".

But here was the victory! Shame and ridicule were put to flight by Hannah's tears and prayers. Her tearful prayers at the feet of the Lord became an instrument of blessing, a weapon of inestimable value through which she gained her blessing. Why should Hannah be barren any longer? Why should she be the oppressed and despondent woman any longer? No, her weapon of tears and prayers not only brought forth Samuel, but five other sons as well!

Are you stumbling and staggering with a barren ministry? A ministry barren of gifts, a ministry barren of souls, a ministry barren of God's blessings and riches? If a honest self-examination is made in the holy presence of our Lord it will reveal that the barrenness is due to the lack of sanctified tears and prayers before the throne of the Almighty God. A prayer void of tears is a prayer void of fruits. Hence let us make a holy vow to pour ourselves before the Lord in tearful intercession for lost souls.

Try Tears

Some years ago, a missionary toiling for lost souls in a foreign soil became very depressed. In spite of all his labour, no souls were gotten for the Lord. Hence he wished to return to his land. He therefore informed his superiors at the missionary headquarters back at home. Instead of calling him

back, the Mission which sent him replied with a terse telegram. The telegram read: 'Try Tears'. The missionary heeded the advice. Everyday at daybreak he would shed at least two drops of tears at his Master's feet, pleading for lost souls. Soon his service was blessed, and he obtained a rich harvest of souls to the Lord. Yes, dear child of God, have you tried this weapon of sanctified tears? Is there no love and harmony between you and your spouse? Try Tears! Are you anxious that your children are not saved yet? Try Tears! Is there some secret sin which has got a strong hold on you, over which you have no victory? Try Tears! Instead of taking your tale of woe, your load of unburdened guilt and your cup of sorrow to the ears of your friends and neighbours, who can help you but a little, take it to your Lord who is ever-present and ever-ready to hear your pleas and to help you in your hour of distress. Your loving Lord will wipe away all your tears.

Where does the river of revival begin? It begins in the tears of those who have rent their hearts in unceasing prayer before the Lord for the unsaved of the world. If we peruse the annals of the history of the Church, we find that the reason for the great outpouring of the Spirit in Wales, the mighty fires of revival that kindled the nation of South Korea and the colossal move of the Spirit over the isles of Indonesia, were the tear drops of the saints closetted in their rooms. Behind every spiritual awakening the Church has ever known are the teardrops of those faithful men and women who rent their hearts, till fire came down from Heaven and answered their cries.

In one of the largest churches in South Korea is a dear lady who has a great burden for lost souls throughout the world. This lady is always on her knees. This lady has made a vow that she would continue to cry and pray for souls to be saved till the second coming of the Lord. At times she gets down on her knees and starts weeping and praying for more

than a day. It is said that she can get on with her praying without any hindrance. Many persons who have witnessed this dear lady pleading for lost souls have been so moved that they, without a second thought, fell on their knees and fervently joined her in praying for lost souls. Shall we, like the weeping prophet Jeremiah, strive for lost souls?, "Oh that my head were waters and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people." Oh Lord! Enable us to weep like Jeremiah for lost souls, fill our hearts with Thine own compassion for the needy. Let the love of Calvary move our hearts to plead with tears for the salvation of sinners.

The 'Violence' of Tears!

Do not forget, dear believer, that a prayer sincerely offered to the Lord with strong crying and tears has infinitely more power than the power released by atomic weapons! One day patriarch Jacob was beset with a mighty dread about his elder brother Esau, whom he had deceived. He shuddered to think that Esau would soon waylay him and capture his wives, his children and plunder all his wealth of cattle, sheep and servants. He therefore made a decision. He decided that before he met his elder brother Esau, a man who was stronger than him, richer than him and also angry with him, he would meet the Lord all night in prayer, and in tears. The fear of being harmed by Esau; the fear of his own future; the fear of safety of his wife and loved ones had transformed Jacob into a prayer-warrior! ".... by his strength he had power with God"

Yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed; he wept, and made supplication unto him, he found him in Bethel and there he spoke with us (Hosea 12:3,4).

Yea, the Bible says "he swept and made supplication (unto him)". The Lord remembered his tears, and he had compassion on him. Our god is not a God who would by-pass a

person in his hour of need. The tears of Jacob moved our Lord's great heart of love. Therefore He utterly blessed him! (Gen 32:26). He enabled Jacob to meet his brother Esau in peace.

Spiritual blessings and gifts of the Spirit can be obtained by the 'weapon' of tears. "The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence; and the violent take it by force". Alleluia!

Dear child of God, do many people oppose you? Do they attack you without any valid reason? Do they intimidate you, and speak ill of you? Then think about the tears of Jacob. The God of Jocob is our God! He will wipe away your tears, and show you the way out of your sorrow. He will fight for you and deliver you. He will set you up on high, in a safe place! Amen!

Seeds of Tears

Dr.T.A.Torrey writes thus:

"I knew a servant of God. His name is Colonel Clarke. Every evening after his day's work was over, he would rent the townhall at the end of the village and conduct gospel meetings. And everyday drunkards, gamblers, thieves and ruffians yielded themselves tearfully over to the Lord. Though his sermons were very, very simple and sometimes even dull, yet at the close of the meeting the move of the Holy Spirit over the entire congregation could be felt. Do you know why? The answer lay in his tears. He wept in secret, he wept in his prayers, he wept while preaching; and he also wept when he counselled penitent sinners.

In the beginning of his ministry he deemed it was unbecoming of a man to cry, hence he stifled his weeping. But when he did so, the failure. That very night he cried to the Lord: " O Lord! Fill me with the spirit of supplication and tears", and the Lord answered his prayer and gave him a heart

of compassion, the spirit of supplication and above all the gift of striving with tears unto the Lord for a glorious victory.

Tears are not a symbol of weakness or shame. It is the symbol of the almighty power of our God. It is the symbol of the example set by our Lord Jesus. It is the symbol of our victory! The word of the Lord says "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy".

He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing bringing his sheaves with him". (Psalm 126:5,6).

"It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power" (I Cor. 15:43).

Yes, sow your 'seeds' of tears in the presence of our Lord; the seeds of tears will dispel the clouds of darkness, gloom and sorrow and usher in the wonderful glory of God. It will bring about an abundant fruitful life of the spirit. Amen, Alleluia!.

Bottles of Tears

There is a widespread belief in most countries about the efficacy of tears. It is customary to gather the tears of all the near and dear of a dead person and put it into a bottle. Then they place this bottle of tears, with the dead person when he is buried. They believe that this bottle of tears, has the power to open the gates of heaven, and let the soul of the departed person enter therein.

Likewise, there is another belief prevalent in many heathen lands. When a person is terminally ill and doctors have given up all hope of his recovery, the family and the relatives of the dying person, collect their tears, put it into a bottle and pour it into the lips of the dying person. They believe, that this act will move the heart of the deity and his life may be thus spared.

On that sad day in the wilderness, in the days of yore, poor, forsaken Hagar wept aloud to the God of Israel! Abraham, her husband, a man of immense riches had banished her and her son Ishmael away from home, and all that he gave her was some loaves of bread and a cruse of water. There ended her husband's love for her and her child! The cruse of water was over and the child Ishmael was dying of thirst, in that barren wilderness. Hagar could not bear it any more. She cried and lifted up her forsaken condition before the God of Israel. Those tears reached Heaven and brought down the Angel of the Lord! Her eyes were opened. She saw the spring of water, and also obtained promise from the Lord! (Gen 21:18) O thou poor forsaken Hagar, shed your tears at the feet of the Lord! He will remember you and help you in the hour of your plight!

David, the sweet psalmist of Israel sings "Thou tellest my wanderings; put thou my tears into thy bottle; are they not in thy book". (Psalm 56:8). Further we see in 1 Sam 30:4 thus: "Then David and the people that were with him, lifted up their voice and wept until they had no more power to weep".

Yes, they poured out all their tears before the Lord till they had no more strength to weep. All their strength was drained through their tears before the Lord. By doing so they were able to defeat the Philistines and redeem their loved ones from capitivity.

Dear child of God, where are your tears of supplication and prayer?

The Valley of Weeping

It is our lot in this world to suffer trials and tribulations. However, as dear children of our Heavenly Father, we are able to walk through the valley of tears, triumphantly. Dear child of God, the pathway of tears is not a new one. Countless num-

numbers of Old Testament patriarchs and prophets, and New Testament saints, why, even our very Lord Jesus Christ, have all trodden this very path before you!

Job laments thus "My friends scorn me! But mine eye poureth out tears unto God". (Job 16:20) King David's experience was also the same:" I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears" (Psalm 6:6). "My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, "where is thy God?" (Psalm 42:3).

St.Paul continues "Therefore watch, and remember by the space of three years I ceased not to warn everyone night and day with tears" (Acts 20:31). Further in the Old Testament we see Hagar weeping in Gen 21:16, Jacob lamenting in Gen.37:35. Joseph pouring out his heart in Gen.43:30. Moses grieving in Exdous 2:6. Elisha the man of God wept in II Kings 8:11. They all trod this same pathway of tears. Moreover it is the advice of St.Paul to weep with those that weep. (Rom 12:15). But what kind of an end can we expect at the close of this pathway,in this life of tears?

The end is one of joyous and triumphant victory in the Lord."Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning". (Psalm 30:5) Alleluia! The Lord will bow down and listen to the tears and prayers of His people, every time they pray and give them a wonderful victory and song. King Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and cried bitterly unto the Lord. Immediately, the God of Israel. spoke to him through his prophet Isaiah. He said."Thus saith the Lord, the God of David thy father. I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears, behold I will heal thee on the third day, thou shalt go up unto the house of the Lord".

"And I will add unto thy days fifteen years,....". (II Kings 20:5,6 & Isaiah 38:5)

Our Lord Jesus said, "...Blessed are ye that weep now; for ye shall laugh." (Luke 6:21). Yes, dear child of God, lay hold on our Lord and cry unto him, till he wipes your tears with His blessed hand! Like Mary, who made wet the feet of our Lord with her tears and wiped it with her hair, pour out your tears at His feet. He will wipe all your tears with His golden hand of compassion.

Why do you cry? Whom do you seek?

Once a poor widow lost her only son. All her hopes of a bright and happy future was pinned on the boy and now that he had died, her entire world crashed down around her. She writhed in deep sorrow and agony. Everyday she would sit near her window forlornly, wishing in her heart if somehow in some way, her dead boy could not be brought back to life. The days slowly crept past and turned into months and the years rolled by. But her tears never ceased. Gradually she lost interest in prayer. She abhorred the Bible. She was bitter against God and cried inconsolably day and night.

However, God took pity on the poor woman and decided to show her a vision. That night she had a dream. Little children were happily laughing and playing in a beautiful green meadow, full of flowers. There was a beautiful garden all around, full of trees, laden with all kinds of wonderful fruits This beautiful sight was making the heart of this sad widow fill with joy. Eagerly she searched for her beloved son, among the happy groups of children. However, she was not able to find him at all. At last, she espied him. There in the corner of that beautiful garden was a cistern full of water. Her son was emptying that cistern of water, laboriously and sadly, all by himself. The widow was filled with sorrow She ran to him and hugged him and then said: "My son, why do you have to work so hard, when other children are happily playing around here?" To this the little fellow replied: "Mother, this water is

all the tears that you have been shedding for me, all these years. As long as you keep on crying on earth as you have been doing, I cannot be happy in this place. So please, stop your crying, Mother", he begged. The vision vanished. From that day onwards, the widow stopped her crying. Not only that, with renewed zeal and fervour she once again picked up her Bible, and started a godly life of prayer, till the end of her days . "Why do you cry? Whom do you seek?" was the loving question asked by our Lord of the weeping Mary Magdalene in the garden. She turned around and saw her Lord, not dead but living and standing beside her. Her tears vanished. Oh! What indescribable joy! What untold happiness!

"He that will wipe away our tears is coming soon!"

We too will soon see our Redeemer. Amen! We will send our cries of loving praise saying, "Even so, come Lord, quickly". Our tears, our sorrows will be changed to rejoicing! Oh, what a wonderful day that will be!

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away" (Rev.21:4).

"For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters; and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." (Rev.7.17). "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it" (Isaiah 25:8).

"And I will rejoice in Jerusalem and joy in my people and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. (Isaiah 65:19).

Chapter 4

Weapon - The Word of God

".....and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God" (Eph.6:17)

The Word of God, the Scriptures is a mighty weapon given by our Almighty Father to His children, to break down the barriers and hindrances of the enemy.

The Bible, the words contained therein are life, they are spirit, hence bring this mighty power into action, in every part of your life. Your life will never be the same again.

I once knew a wonderful man of God, a pastor who lived in a small town called Ambattur near Madras. This pastor lived next-door to a man who was a high government official. For some reason this person did not like the pastor being his neighbour and tried to get this dear child of God evicted from his dwelling. However, his efforts were in vain. So he decided to use witchcraft on the pastor to drive him away from the neighbourhood.

One night when the pastor was praying on the terrace of his house, he heard some voices below in the street, in front of his house. He was just in time to see the govt. official (his neighbour) and a magician leave certain objects on his door-step and hurry away. With a silent prayer on his lips, he went downstairs and picked up the things left behind-there were a lime, an egg, some human hair and so forth. He brought them upstairs, and laid them before the Lord and began to pray. His prayer was based on only one scripture in the Bible: "Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world" 1 John 4:4. He stood steadfast in his faith, and claimed the promise of the Lord. Before the end of that week, the government official was dead'

"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper..." (Isaiah 54:17).

"...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil...." (I John 3:8).

"Resist the devil and he will flee from you". (James 4:7).

I remember, when I first came into this New Life, a brother who worked in my office approached me for prayer. This brother had a problem. He could not sleep at nights. I started to pray, but as I prayed, the man became violent and began to roll on the ground. All this was quite new to me. So I left off praying and decided to ask for help. I went to another wonderful child of God and asked him what I should do under such circumstances. This brother gave me a precious promise from the Bible: "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall by any means hurt you" (Luke 10:19).

Armed with this precious promise I set out to meet this tortured brother, the next day. Praise be to God! only then were my eyes opened to the wonderful reality of God's power as contained in His promises. As I began to pray, quoting this verse, the Lord vindicated His word. A mighty power swept through and the man was delivered from the bondage of the enemy. Every demon had to flee. Our Lord is faithful. He is faithful to keep His word. Alleluia!

Our Lord Jesus Christ said, "I am the way, the truth and the life." Therefore, He is a pattern for us in every walk of our life. When we closely study the method by which our Lord defeated the enemy, we find that our Lord Himself used the "Sword of the Spirit" against the wiles of the devil.

During his forty days of fasting when he was assailed by the Tempter, Jesus firmly stood His ground by quoting the word of God in all the three occasions. Our Lord's words began

with "It is written". Thus it is very imperative that a child of God should have a solid foundation by diligently studying the word of God, and wisdom to'rightly divide the word of truth'.

Now, what was the experience of King David, he says in Psalm 119:11,"Thy words have I hid in my heart, that I may not sin against Thee".

Just remember this. the more we read and study the Scriptures and the more we commit to memory passages of the Bible and consciously apply the same in our daily walk in life, the more certain and mighty will be our victory against all the wiles of the enemy. Even the Lord has given us this commandment concerning the scriptures. "And these words which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart. And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shall talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down. and when thou risest up. And thou shalt find them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes...." (Deu 6:6,7,8).

As important as milk is to the survival of an infant so is the word of God to the believers for their spiritual sustenance and growth.

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby" (1 Peter 2:2)

There should be real heart desire to study and know the word of God. Only then can one memorize the Scriptures and thus apply it in their lives.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom: teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" Col.3:16.

Some years before Rumania fell into Communist hands, the Holy spirit urged many believers to study the scriptures

by rote. Many believers heeded this unction of the spirit and committed many passages of the Bible to their memory. Suddenly one day the tanks of Soviet Communist Russia rolled into Rumania and within a matter of days, Rumania was forced to become a Communist country. Bibles were destroyed. Study of the Scriptures was forbidden and a famine of the Word occurred. But, as many believers knew the Scriptures by heart, they were comforted during the time of their ordeal.

St.Paul admonishes us to take the Sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" Hebrews 4:12.

The word of God is both a weapon of defence and offence. It can be used to shield oneself from the attacks of the enemy as well as to attack the enemy.

Hence a diligent study of the Bible with right understanding and memorizing the scriptures will enable a believer to gain victory in the spiritual warfare.

"Blessed be the Lord my strength, which teacheth my hands to war and my fingers to fight" Psalm 144:1.

Chapter 5

Weapon-Angels!

The War-clouds had gathered around Israel!

Sennacherib, the king of Assyria had surrounded all Judea with his hosts, and was laying siege to Jerusalem. His war-lords had gone up on the city-walls of the beleaguered city and were mocking and cursing the God of Israel! The hearts of the people of Judah were faint with fear! king Hezekiah the king of Judah was downcast and felt helpless at this terrible onslaught of the enemy. Yes, he lacked man-power and that seemingly brought about a lack in his spiritual power too! If this were not enough, king Hezekiah's troubles began to pile up still more! king Sennacherib sent a letter, a devastating threatening letter, to king Hezekiah through his generals, which was calculated to destroy the inner strength and confidence of the king. Hezekiah's heart did falter within him for a time, but he did one thing, the only thing that could save him and all Judea from danger and destruction.

".....And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the Lord, and spread it before the Lord. Now, therefore, O Lord our God, I pray save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you are the Lord God, you alone......". (II Kings 19:14,19)

Did the God of Israel answer king Hezekiah's prayer? Yes, he most certainly did! "And it came to pass on a certain night, that the angel of the Lord went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty five thousand; and when the people arise early in the morning, there were the corpses-all dead". (II Kings Chap-19:35)

The very God of Israel, which answered King Hezekiah's prayer is still alive and unchanging, even today. He is God of all creation, and will be for all Eternity. Therefore, take heart, dear child of God. He will listen to and answer your prayers!

Is your life's pathway beset with difficulties and trials? Do not be discouraged, lay all your problems bare before the power of Our loving Lord! Like Jephthah of yore, who laid all his trials before the Lord at Mizpah and was Divinely succoured in all his needs, so will the same Lord help and strengthen and deliver you out of all the trials and temptations of your life.

1. Our 'family' is big!

When we accept the Lord Jesus as our Saviour and make Him the Lord of our life, we become members of a very 'Big family'. Do you realize, how big and how great and how wonderful our family really is? Saint Paul says,"But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and the church of the first-born who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the Spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel". (Heb. 12: 22-24)

Mark well, the words "to an innumerable company of angels". Yes, they are the ministering spirits of our God Almighty, provided for us to minister to us and to defend us.

Once upon a time, a King of a country decided to tour a part of his country. Therefore elaborate preparations were made for him to visit that particular part of his domain. The streets were cleaned, decorations were put up. As a further measure, the King's servants and soldiers chased away all the

beggars, urchins and ruffians off the route of the procession. While doing so they encountered a poor young woman, thinly clad almost in rags, who very much wanted to get a glimpse of her King, but the soldiers would none of it and were engaged in keeping her away from the place. Just then the King with his entourage arrived at the spot. His eyes happened to glance at the scene. The king felt a great pity for the young woman. So he himself came near and told the guards to desist from removing her from the spot. He said that he had decided to make that penniless poor woman his wife! He returned to the palace.

Soon the wedding took place. The poor beggar woman was no longer an outcast, but the queen of the land. The very guards who had once driven her away, were now at her mercy and at her beck and call. All the powers of land were now under her control.

Likewise, we who were strangers and aliens in this world have found grace in the eyes of our lovely Lord Jesus. We who were lost in the deep mire of sin have now been lifted up and washed and made clean by the precious Blood of Calvary. We are now attired in the precious robes of Salvation, and in the garment of righteousness. Not only that, we have now been elevated to the honoured position of the Bride in the Heavenly Family.

Dear child of God, think just for a moment on the matchless grace and Love of Our Lord, who has bestowed such priceless gifts and honour on us! The very angels who barred our entry into the Garden of Eden with a flaming sword are now ministers to us who are heirs to Salvation! Remember, we are members of the Heavenly Family above!

The Bible says "Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation" (Heb 1:14)

The Lord God Almighty has appointed the angels to minister unto us! Alleluia!

2. The Mighty Angels - Our Defence!

"The Angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them" Psalm 34:7.

What a blessed promise, what an assurance given to His children by our Almighty Lord! The Lord further adds another promise too: "For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways". (Psalm 91:11,12). Let your heart be at rest, be in peace, the angels of our Lord are ever mindful about the ways of his beloved ones. Hence always remember that the presence of our Lord and His holy angels are ever near, to comfort and guide you!

On that lovely Easter morn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were worried and perplexed as to who would roll away the stone from the mouth of the Lord's sepulchre. But they need not have worried because "...for an Angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it! (Mathew 28:2).Yes, Our Lord performs all things for us!

The walled city of Jericho loomed high before the children of Israel. There it stood, seemingly invincible, barring all entry into the promised land. But Joshua, still resolute and undaunted in his mind, stood before it. When he lifted up his eyes, he saw a Man standing before him, a drawn sword was in his hands. When Joshua enquired of his purpose he answered, "No, but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come". (Joshua 5:13-15). That very angel who commanded the Hosts of the Lord is now ready to battle on your behalf, and give you the victory. Alleluia!

Yes, the very Lord of Hosts is with us. "The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace" (Exodus 14:14).

The Lord of Hosts is His name. When the apostles were locked up in prison, the angel of the Lord descended by night, unlocked the prison gates and brought them out saying "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life" Act 5:19. Yes, Heaven is on our side! Do not be afraid, speak out the Truth and boldly proclaim the Gospel!

Again when St. Peter was locked up in prison by King Herod, the believers earnestly sought the Lord in prayer, on his behalf. In a miraculous answer to their prayers, the angel of the Lord came down and stood in the cell where Peter was in chains. The room was filled with light and the chains simply fell away from Peter's hands. Then, the angel led Peter past all the three wards of the prison doors and brought him out into the open street. (Acts 12:7-12). Yes, cheer up dear one of God, your earnest, faith filled prayer can bring down the Angel of the Lord to work on your behalf. When the apostles Paul and Silas, worshipped and sang praises to God in the prison, the very foundation of the dread prison was shaken. The prison doors swung wide open. Are you fettered by some besetting sin? Do trials loom on your pathway? Do enemies assail you on every side? Rejoice in the Lord! Lift up your hands and sing praises to our Blessed Lord and Saviour. Then you will see the Mighty deliverance which the Lord will command from Heaven!

Our God is Great! The Lord of Hosts is His Name! "Who is this king of Glory? The Lord strong and mighty, The Lord mighty in battle." (Psalm 24:8) Blessed indeed, are they, who put their trust in the Lord and make the Lord of Hosts their refuge!

3. "Michael! Angel of the Lord of Hosts! What are you doing?"

Once in a small village in India, a preacher was conducting an open-air evangelistic meeting. The poor, village people

thronged around the preacher and were listening with rapt attention and joy. Naturally enough, that old Enemy, the Devil was not happy over this. So he set about to create a commotion amongst the people. Then the trouble began. The local village ruffian would not have any of these kind of things happening. He swore and cursed at the preacher and the people and threatened to kill the preacher if he did not stop. Then to make his promise good, he suddenly plunged into the crowd brandishing a sharp, shining scythe in his hand. He ran towards the preacher, swearing loudly that he was going to cut the preacher's head. The people ran hither and thither fearing that the preacher's head will roll in the dust any moment. But in spite of all this, the preacher himself remained calm and unruffled, stood his ground and continued to preach. When the assailant neared him, he just lifted up his eyes towards the heavens and said in a loud voice , "Michael, Angel of the Lord of Hosts, what are you doing?". That was all, the next moment the ruffian stopped dead in his tracks, with the shining scythe held aloft in his hand. He simply could not budge even an inch. There he stood like a statue, helpless to do anything. The God who could shut the lion's mouth is still able to do the same for us, today. (Daniel 3:28).

According to the Bible, Archangel Michael is the angel in command over God's angelic host who are engaged in warfare against the Enemy and his angels. "At that time Michael shall stand up. The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people". (Dan. 12:1). In the Book of Jude vs.9 we find Michael referred to as ".....Michael the archangel......". Further, in the Book of Revelations 12:7 it is said "And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer". Oh! What joy! Satan can never ever have the victory! The vic-

tory belongs to our God, who is Almighty in power and strength.

Remember that in the heavenly family to which we belong, there are mighty angels like archangel Michael who contends with our enemies, and archangel Gabriel who bring God's messages of love and comfort to His people. There are also other angels who guide us, and then there are the cherubims and Seraphims who praise and glorify the Lord God Almighty, unceasingly. Finally, there are the angels with the flaming swords who defend God's children and keep them secure from all danger. Therefore, dear believer, never feel that you are lonely or forsaken. Man may forsake you, but God and his mighty angels are ever with you. "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us and let us run with endurance, the race that is set before us". (Heb 12:1).

4. Our Ministering Spirits

I know of a poor illiterate godly evangelist. Though he was an unlearned and very simple man, lacking in the gift of speech or many other such skills, he possessed one great gift, that is, an unshakable faith in God and His word. Once this dear man of God was doing the Lord's work in a place called Erode in South India. It was the monsoon season and it was raining very hard. After covering a number of villages, he came to the local church there requesting that he be given shelter for the night. The person in charge of the church, however did not take kindly to him, so he very curtly told him, to spend the night in the verandah of the church and gave him no food nor any other comfort and walked away leaving him quite helpless. However, this man of God was not in the least bit daunted. So he heartily thanked the Lord for the shelter given, but took care to remind the Lord that he was hungry. He soon

fell asleep. After a while, he suddenly felt that he was being awakened by someone. The place was full of soft, mellow light. He saw two persons in white standing beside him, and when he sat up, he saw a banana leaf laid out before him and one of the perons serving rice, dhal and curds of which he was very fond. The other person in white even fed him and soon he was given something to drink and put to bed, like a king. Even after he lay down, he could see the two men in white, cleaning up the floor talking all the while. One of the men mentioned about the various places they still had to go around the world to help people. Soon he was asleep. When he awoke in the morning he felt no pangs of hunger and was fully refreshed and strengthened. Only then did he realise that what he had seen in the night was not vision or dream, but that God had sent his angels to give him food and strength. Oh! the matchless love of our dear Redeemer! Every child of His is precious in His sight. Every true servant of God, however humble he may be in the eyes of this world, is the son of the Heavenly King and hence is worthy to be ministered unto by mighty angels, whose power can shake the world.

Remember, prophet Elijah sore and weary resting under a juniper tree, where an angel fed him and gave him water and thus strengthened him (I King 19:48). Remember, God sent His angel twice to poor wailing Hagar and consoled her and also showed her the spring of water in that parched wilderness! (Gen 16:7-17, 21:19) Was not Abraham shown the things that would occur thereafter by an angel? (Gen. 18:2.22:11,15). Remember, the Lord sent two of His angels, to save Lot and his family from being destroyed with the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19:1-22). Moreover he showed his servant Jacob as to how angels ascended and descended from Heaven to earth by a ladder (Gen.28:12). Further, the Lord enabled angels to accompany Jacob to and fro in all his journeys (Gen.31:11, Gen.32:1). Remember, how the Lord

spoke by his angel to Moses out of the burning bush in the wilderness (Exodus 3:4). The Lord also sent His Angel to rebuke the erring prophet Balaam (Num.22:23-35). Joshua was met by the Captain of the Lord of Hosts and strengthened by the walls of Jericho (Joshua 5:15). It was an Angel of the Lord that explained the important mission that Gideon was about to perform (Judge 6:12). An angel of the Lord announced the birth of Samson to his parents (Judges 13:3,21). The Angel of the Lord appeared to King David (IISam.24:16) and on four occasions to prophet Elijah. The Holy Scriptures are replete with incidents that record the dealings of these heavenly messengers with the children of the Most High, Helping guiding, protecting and defending them at all times.

How wonderful to contemplate that all those blessed angels of God are on our side who protect and defend us! Rejoice! "For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways." (Psalm 91:11).

5. How to utilise the services of Angels!

Pastor Richard Wurmbrand, the living saint from Communist Romanian jail once asked like this, "Will you allow your kitchenmaid to sit on the sofa in the drawing room and listen to the radio, while you slogged and scrubbed in the kitchen? No! you would not, then why do you labour yourself to death in the Lord's work, instead of utilising the services of the angels of God whom the Lord has placed at your disposal?" Well, that is Pastor Richard Wurmbrand's argument.

Pastor Richard Wurmbrand was imprisoned in Communist Romanian jail fourteen years for his faith in Christ. Among the various types of tortures that he underwent Pastor Wurmbrand was imprisoned in an underground cell in solitary confinement, thirty feet below the ground. Such a solitary confinement for any length of time would surely make

the prisoner insane. His captors expected that he would certainly lose his sanity.

But, what did happen? Pastor Wurmbrand with all his heart, cried out to the Lord to send His holy angels to the cell where he was confined. The Lord did just that and soon angels filled his tiny cell, below the ground. Then Pastor Wurmbrand began his new ministry. He preached all the sermons, all the exhortations, all the messages of comfort, that he thought his scattered and suffering brethren and other children of God needed, to the assembled angels (just as he would do in any Sunday service)! Then he requested the angels to carry the messages to the people to whom it was intended! Oh! he did not stop with just that. He also sent messages of comfort and advice to his wife and son, whenever he thought they needed it. Sounds fantastic! Yet, Pastor Wurmbrand and others to whom the messages were sent testify that every message reached the congregation or the individual to whom it was intended. For fourteen long years Pastor Wurmbrand continued to avail himself of the ministry of the angels. Further, when he was released from prison, he again requested all the angels to come to him, and remind him of all the sermons he made while he was in prison. Since he had forgotten a considerable portion of it all, the angels then repeated every sermon that he ever preached in the prison, word for word, which Pastor Richard Wurmbrand published as two books under the titles "If prison walls could Speak" and "Sermons in solitary confinement". Both of which are books of great spiritual depth and wisdom.

Surely, we who are privileged to be living in a country where freedom of worship exists, can avail of the blessed service of the holy angels, to spread the gospel far and wide. Dear believer, you too can send your prayers, your messages of comfort, your exhortations to the lonely, afflicted and bereaved of

the world, from within the four walls of your little room. Why, you can remain here and yet be a missionary to the bound and lost in countries like China, Russia and everywhere!

God has crowned us with honour and glory more than the angels (Psalm 8:5). The psalmist gratefully exclaims, "What is man that you are mindful of him and the son of man that you visit him?......You have made him to have dominion over the works of your hands, you have put all things under his feet" (Psalm 8:4,6).

"To them it was revealed that, not to themselves but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven-things which angels desire to look into. How great and how boundless is the love with which our Saviour has loved us".

6. Open Thou our eyes, that we may behold!

Lord, open Thou our spiritual eyes, blinded with unbelief, and help us to realize that your holy angels are our weapons in this spiritual war. Help us to know that they are there arrayed and ready to help us in the battle. Amen.

The king of Syria secretly sent his armed guards, chariots and horsemen to capture prophet Elisha. The soldiers came stealthily by night and surrounded the small town in which prophet Elisha was then staying. When morning came, prophet Elisha's servant Gehazi was dismayed and cried out, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"

So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them".

And Elisha prayed and said, "Lord, I pray open his eyes that he may see. Then the Lord opened his eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha." (II Kings 6:15-17).

Victory belonged to Elisha! The God of Elisha is our God! Come then, let us claim the victory.

Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the World! (I John 4:4).

"For those who are with us are more than those who are with them". (II Kings 6:16)

Amen! Alleluia!

Chapter 6

THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB

Once emperor Napoleon Bonaparte of France was holding a secret conference with his generals. On the wall before them was a large map of the world. Dotted on the map, here and there, were little spots of red. All the little red spots denoted Great Britain and the lands which formed part of the Great British Empire. Emperor Napolean looked at the map. Pointing his finger towards the red spots, he exclaimed in anger and frustration, "Oh! if it were not for those red spots, I could have become the Emperor of the world!"

True, if it were not for the bright red spots of the blood shed at Calvary for you and me, Satan would have long ago vanquished the world and brought it under his cruel reign. Like the brave little white corpuscles found in our blood, which guards and defends the body against dread diseases and germs, the holy blood of our Lord cleanses us, guards us and defends us from the onslaught of sin and ensuing spiritual death. The powers of darkness are broken! Yes, The Son of God was manifest so that He could destroy the work of the Devil!

"Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their life-time subject to bondage" (Heb 2:14,15).

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God, for pulling down strongholds" (II Cor. 10:4).

Most people live in a state of constant fear and anxiety. They wonder, "When will Satan attack me?"

"I wonder, what fresh problem he is going to confront me with?"

"My! What new disease or virus fever will he foist on me next?"

"Good Heavens! What will I do, if somebody does witchcraft against me or my family?"

"How can I ever cope up with so much against me? I am so weak and helpless!"

Dear child of God, if any of these questions are racing in your mind, immediately rebuke it in the Name of Our Lord Jesus and boldly confront the Enemy with the Holy Blood of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

Do not think that you are weak, for our Lord has promised us "... *For God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame, the things which are mighty*" (I Cor. 1:27). It is possible for a weakling like you, to pull down the stronghold of the enemy. For the Blood of Jesus Christ has endued you with immense power from on High. Do not wait till the Enemy strikes, but take the offensive and strike him first! Pray over your family and other loved ones and keep them encircled in the precious Blood of Jesus!

In Revelations Chapter 12 we read of a great battle having been fought and won by the saints of God. Just what are the weapons used by them against the Enemy. We find that "... *they overcame him by the Blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to death.*"

It is important that we understand the manner in which they used the two important weapons to gain victory in the battle.

(1) The Blood of the Lamb

(2) The Word of their testimony

Jesus Christ is referred to as the Lamb. St. Peter says: "......the precious blood of Chirst, as of a lamb without blemish, without spot" (I Peter 1:19).

A shadow of this is beautifully given in the Old Testament record of the first Passover. To make a difference between the idolatrous Egyptians and the Israelites and also as divine protection of the Israelites, the Passover Lamb, a lamb which was without any blemish was set apart and slain.

In the Book of Exodus Chap. 12:22, we read the account as follows: "And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two door-posts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning". The bunch of Hyssop represents the word of our testimony. Therefore our lives, our words and deeds should be so, that they can be wholly covered by the blood of the Lamb. This would enable us to stand fearlessly before the attacks of the Enemy, since he cannot pass through the holy Blood of the Lamb. Sprinkle the blood of the Lamb on all the hindrances you confront in your prayer-life! Sprinkle the Holy blood of Christ on all obstacles that loom up in the path of a mighty revival in our Nation. Mighty things are sure to happen! Resist the Devil with the Blood of Jesus and claim the victory. Oh! the precious Blood drawn from Immanuel's veins is our shield and refuge.

Alleluia!

Chapter 7

ATOMIC WEAPONS AND THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB.

It was the 6th of April in the year 1945.

The grey morning mist rolled away. The clouds were tinted with gold, orange and pink. The sun arose majestically over the Pacific sea, bathing the nearby hills in gold. The gentle waves were lapping on the shore. Little wavelets were glittering and dancing in the rays of the morning sun. Little birds chirped in the trees. Another day had dawned over the city of Hiroshima in Japan.

The city stirred to life. Women were getting the breakfast ready. Men were dressed for work. Children, all brushed and clean, were setting off for school. The pedestrians were busy walking on the streets. Automobiles, cars and buses honked, screeched and added to the din. Yes, everything was busy, peaceful and normal as any other day. True, there was a war going on. But that did not affect the city much, except for an air-raid siren warning going off now and then.

But suddenly, the shrill wailing of the air-raid sirens shattered the calm of the city. The incessant and piercing sound, alarmed and instinctively, filled the people's heart with a dread fear. This was no ordinary call!

And then everything began to happen all at once. A plane flew very low overhead, and within forty three seconds the first ever atom-bomb fell on the city of Hiroshima. It was as if the fury of a thousand suns had been unleashed on the ill-fated city.

Within the twinkling of an eye, thousands upon thousands were mercilessly burnt alive. Towering buildings

were reduced to a rubble. All living things, man, beast and every green living thing were reduced to ashes!

The huge colossal mushroom that towered like an evil giant above the city could be seen for miles around.

The terrible heat, the blinding light and poison gas affected people living for miles all around. The atmosphere was affected 40,000 feet and above by the impact of the atom-bomb! The nuclear fallout had devastating effect for months, even years to come.

1. Time will be no more!

This happened in the year 1945. One would think that after such a grim holocaust as this, people would desist from creating any more such murderous weapons forever! But no! Within a period of five years, forty countries around the world had the atom-bomb ready in their military arsenal. Why, thanks to some scientists they even bettered on the atom-bomb. Hydrogen and various other nuclear war-heads and missiles. Yes, mankind has now achieved the wonderful ability to destroy this planet 40,000 times over! Heads of the nations are now trying ways and means as to how to preserve the stock-pile of weapons from blasting off on their own.

The hands of the clock of time is moving towards the fatal hour in history! Time, that precious commodity is running out and time will be no more! It is very doubtful whether another generation will live to its fullness.

2. The Bible warns!

But the heaven and the earth, which now exist, are kept in store by the same word, reserved for fire until the day of the judgment and perdition of ungodly men. (II Peter 3:7)

"At the time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over your people: And there shall be a time

of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time". Dan.12:1.

It would do well to listen to the words of our dear Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ for He warns, "So you, likewise, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things are fulfilled. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will by no means pass away. But take heed to yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you, unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass and to stand before the Son of Man." (Luke 21:31-36).

3. You are in great danger!

Dear brother and sister, remember that you are in great danger if you are not saved and not shielded by the holy blood of the Son of God! If you have still not come to the dear Saviour, please do it at once.

Repent of your sins, leave your pride and sinful habits and come to the loving Lord. The pride of this world, its wealth, its splendour will all pass away. They are mere dust and ashes. If one single atom-bomb could produce such fiery heat, suffering and death, the imagination boggles when one contemplates on the horrors of hell! Imagine that terrible place "where the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched". No, my dear brother, my dear sister, do not allow yourself to be sent to that awful place. Heed the call of our loving Lord! He is there with arms outstretched, with his great heart full of love and compassion, to receive you as His child, this very moment. He is God, he is your creator. His shed blood is still

cleansing and sanctifying the lost of this world! Come, come at once!

4. The weapon that overcomes nuclear weapons!

When the atoms of Uraniums are split, tremendous power is released. This is known as atomic power. Likewise when the veil of flesh, the body of our Lord was split at Calvary, it released a tremendous power, the love-force of the Almighty God himself. This power is unique. It has the potency to remove all sin, all guilt of the entire mankind. It is the remedy for all sickness and pain and it breaks the curse on every man.

The blood of Jesus Christ is able to shield you from the dread fury of the nuclear weapons and save you from the horrors of hell, Oh! hasten to this refuge! Your hiding place is in Jesus Christ alone! Those who are redeemed by His blood have no part in the second death. Amen! Alleluia!

5. A drop of this priceless blood is sufficient.

I have read about the mighty mass-crusades conducted by the renowned and world-famous evangelist T.L.Osborn. He was a man who laboured among the millions of unsaved with tears, prayers and fastings. Sometimes, in his mass-crusades, his sermon would be quite short, he would have addressed the crowd only for a few minutes. No sooner had he finished, the power of the Holy Spirit would sweep through the crowd, and the power of the blood of Jesus would be manifest mightily. Sick people would be healed, demons would flee, the lame would walk, the blind would see, the deaf hear, and not only that, thousands of people would be ushered into the New Way, the only way to eternal life. Yes, thousands would be saved and brought to Christ.

That Eternal Rock of Ages, cleft for you and me, that stream of Holy blood from Immanuels's side is mightier than

all the nuclear weapons made by man. Let us, with a heart full of faith, sprinkle the blood of Jesus on our nation, to save our dear people from slipping into hell.

6. People of God that hinder the plan of satan!

For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. (II Thess.2.7).

Do you realize what restrains the world from plunging into a nuclear war, even now, is the power of the blessed Holy Spirit and the fervent prayers of saints, who are agonizing in prayer for a world revival? That is why, even upto now the Door of Grace has not been shut.

Therefore, soldiers of Christ, Arise! Gird yourselves in earnest prayer! It is you, who should restrain the powers of darkness, from engulfing the world! The time to save the world from fiery destruction is now, or else it will be too late.

Do not waste precious time! Strengthen yourself in the Lord!

Chapter 8

WEAPON - THE HOLY GHOST!

I know a very godly medical doctor in Kancheepuram. Once, he was praying all by himself, in the first floor of his house. It is a very stately house with large french windows, all around. While he was praying he heard some scuffling and stealthy footsteps in the hall where he was praying. He chanced to open his eyes and he was thunderstruck! A group of fairly large-sized monkeys had somehow come through the windows and had completely encircled him. They were ready to attack him! Silently, he cried out to the Lord in prayer. He did not dare to shout or flail his arms about since that would become the signal for the monkeys to attack him. Suddenly, the Lord gave him a thought. He was prompted to pray aloud in tongues. So, staying in the same position, he prayed in the spirit aloud in tongues. No sooner had the monkeys heard this, they became terrified and began to flee pell-mell, out of the house. Everyone of them scampered clear out of the house and its surroundings! My doctor-friend fell on his knees and praised the Lord for this miraculous deliverance!

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts" (Zech 4:6).

1. By my spirit....

The magnificent temple of the Lord built by King Solomon was destroyed, and the people of Judah had been carried into captivity by king Nebuchadnezzar into Babylon. After some years, Zerubbabel, a prince of the royal family who were in Babylon, was given permission by the emperor, to rebuild the holy temple at Jerusalem. He started to build the holy temple, but he had to encounter many a hardship and trial before he could finish the work. He had not enough money, nor had he whole-hearted co-operation from his fellow

low country men. Moreover, he had to fight against the enemies of the people of God, who by that time had entrenched themselves in the land. He began to get faint and weary. It was then that the Lord spoke to him. He said to him in effect, "Zerubbabel, this work cannot be done by your might or power , but by my spirit" (Zech 4:6). History records that the temple was indeed finished. It was there when our Lord came on this earth as a man.

Allow the third person of the Trinity, the blessed Holy Spirit, to work in your life! Allow Him to take full control of your life! You cannot, on your own, do anything about your life or your family or other. But invite Him, the Holy Spirit, in your life and He will smooth out all the knots and entanglements of your life. You cannot,by your own effort, correct or change your wayward children. But burden the Holy Spirit about them and start praising the Lord! You will be as'to'unded at the miracles that will take place in the lives of your children. When you are yielded completely to the Spirit, He will perform mightily on your behalf!

Mose's heart was burning for the emancipation of his people, the Israelites, from the cruel bondage and slavery of the Egyptians! With his power of a prince in the household of Pharaoh, the King of Egypt, he set about on his own. Yes, he was able to kill one Egyptian! And that was all he could do! Soon because of this, he was fleeing Egypt. It took forty lone years in the wilderness to break his pride and self-sufficiency and make him see his dependence on God alone, before he could become a fit instrument in the hands of the living God of Israel. 'By my spirit' was the lesson he learnt at the wilderness of Horeb, and after he had learnt it, Moses in his eighties was able to make the Israelites cross the Red sea and destroy the armies of Pharaoh!

2. The Holy Spirit of God - our weapon!

The Old Testament is replete with accounts of how ordinary men in every walk of life, had under the anointing of the Holy Spirit become men of unsurpassed strength and valour. When the Holy spirit of the Lord rested on Samson, he, with his bare hands could kill a full-grown lion (Judges 14:6). When the spirit of the Lord rested on Othniel he was able to win the war against Cushan - Rishathaim, king of Mesopotamia. (Judges 3:8)). When the Spirit of the Lord descended on Jephthah, he was able to cross the land of Gilead and Manasseh, and defeat the sons of Ammon in battle (Judges 11:29). The Holy scriptures are full of such incidents. The God who was able to strengthen weak men through His mighty Spirit is even now able to fill you with His spirit and enable you to lead a life of victory.

3. The Mighty power from on high!

The power of the Holy Spirit alone was the weapon that was triumphantly wielded by the believers of the early church. The power with which the disciples would be endued from on high as promised by our Lord Jesus Christ, was the power of the Holy Spirit. "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). "Behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). It is not possible for you to keep the testimony of your life spotless without the power from the Holy Spirit. Therefore, fall on your knees and yield yourself to the blessed Holy Spirit to take complete lordship over your life.

The disciples of our Lord tarried in the upper room till they were filled with the Holy Spirit - the power from on high. After that the weak, vacillating, frightened men were trans-

formed into men of courage. They boldly proclaimed, "This Jesus God has raised up of which we are all witnesses" (Acts 2:32).

The latter rain as promised in the book of Joel is now being poured on all men everywhere! Since satan knows that he has only a short period left, is rising up in all his strength and is busily engaged in creating havoc and turmoil among the people of the world. His special target are the children of God. He knows that unless he succeeds in making them quit the battle, he has no hope of ever winning the battle! So, dear child of God, remember satan is a vanquished foe. So let us not allow him to hoodwink us to believe we are defeated. No! we cannot be defeated when we are fighting alongside with the Holy Spirit. Yes, we can do that when we are filled with the Divine Spirit.

4. The standard of the Lord!

"... When the enemy comes in like a flood the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him" (Isaiah 59:19).

When an army marches into battle, the captain of the army marches in front, holding the banner of his nation before the oncoming forces. Yes, the Divine paraclete, the Holy Spirit, is the commander who leads us into the battle. He is not the one to be silent or aloof, when trouble is near. When the enemy rises up like a flood against you, your loved ones and others, the banner of the unfailing love of Calvary is unfurled before the enemy by the Holy Spirit. He leads the battle and fights your battles! Remember the God of Israel who marched before the armies of the children of Israel, is even now leading the battle on behalf of His beloved children. Amen. Alleluia!

5. The spirit that sets free!

"Now the Lord is the spirit, and where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (II Cor. 3:17).

The chief work of Satan is to bind humanity under various weaknesses and vice and keep them from coming to the light and effective service for the Lord. Some are bound by the chains of witchcraft and black magic; some are bound by their lust for this world,its riches, and sinful pleasures; some are bound by bonds of useless traditions, customs and superstitions. And it may be a matter of surprise to some, but even people who profess themselves to be Christians are also enslaved by such bonds of satan.

It is the work of the Holy Spirit to free men who are bound under the grim bonds of satan. We read in Isaiah 61:1-3 as follows "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me; Because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound....".

Further we read in the book of Romans 8:2:

"For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death;".

And again, in the same book of Romans we find:

"For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father" (Roman 3:15).

6. The sword of the spirit.

"And take the sword of the spirit" Ephesians 6:17.

In our spiritual armour, we have shield of faith as a weapon of defence; and as our weapon of offence, we have the sword of the Spirit. But the sword of the Spirit does not mean the Holy Spirit alone, for it is written the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God. The holy scriptures in its entirety is breathed by the Holy Spirit. Further in Heb 4:12,we find that

"the word of God is like a sharp, two edged sword". Hence by mere skillful preaching, human eloquence and rhetoric, we cannot bring souls to Jesus. To be a successful soulwinner, one should speak under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Then only a mighty wave of revival will sweep over the nations everywhere.

7. Human mind - the battlefield between good and evil.

When the devil finds that he is unable to overcome you in the outer world, he will turn his attention to the inner world of man, especially the mind. It is important to remember that every spiritual battle is won or lost, in the realm of the mind. The mind is the place where the final show-down between the forces of God and the forces of the devil takes place. The outcome of the battle in the mind determines the course of the man towards his destiny.

Therefore, guard your mind, the seat of all your thoughts and emotions, with all utmost care and vigi lance. The devil will insidously try to infiltrate your defence with impure thoughts, filthy imaginations and dreams. Beware! Remember the people of ancient days, who "became futile in their thoughts and their foolish hearts were darkened". Remember that God will bring into judgement every wicked thought and vain imagination. So be on the alert, at all times.

Of course, this is not easy. An ancient proverb says that "the mind of man is like a monkey". It jumps restlessly from one thing to another. So many thoughts race through the mind, till one is consciously aware of what is going on. Yes, thoughts are like birds, which fly over our heads. You can't prevent them from flying,but you can certainly prevent them from lodging and making a nest in your head In the same way, if an impure thought or imagination comes in your mind, quickly forget it or ignore it. Do not brood over it, for if you do

so it will find a permanent foot-hold in your mind. After which it becomes well-nigh hard to eradicate.

Thoughts are like birds which fly over a well. If the birds are not allowed to rest on the well, there is no danger to the well. But if the owner of the well is careless and allows the birds to halt on the wall of the well, soon there will be plants growing,around and within the walls of the well. This would have happened because of the seeds fallen through the droppings from the birds. If this continues, the well will soon be choked up and become useless. In the same way, evil thoughts should not be harboured in the mind, for it will be the downfall of the man himself.

Therefore our strong weapon against the entrance of evil thoughts and imaginations is the presence of the Holy Spirit Himself. "Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (II Cor.10:5).

It is a sound idea to be filled with the spirit and have a session of praise and prayer, before you go to bed at night. As sleep closes your eye-lids, the praise on your lips will pass into the realm of the subconscious mind. Then your spirit will take up the prayer all night, so that it is in constant touch with the blessed Saviour. Such a sleep would be a source of untold blessing and refreshment to the body. The psalmist says," I slept, but my soul was awake within me".

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil.2:5).Yield yourself to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to have complete control over your thought-life. Then your mind will be renewed and you will become Christ-like in your thoughts and actions. "And do not be conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that

you, may prove what is good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Rom 12:2 .).

Chapter 9

WEAPON - ONENESS OF HEART!

"...One chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight....." (Deut.32:30).

This is a wonderful promise given by the Lord God Almighty to the nation of Israel, by the mouth of Moses. Still, we who are the seed of Abraham through Christ, can lay hold of this promise, since we are the spiritual house of Israel. Then, this promise becomes very relevant, today, for us, in our spiritual battle!

By this promise, God emphasises the invincible power that can be got when there is oneness of heart and unity of mind, among His beloved-the church.

If one man can chase a thousand, it is logical to conclude that two men should chase two thousand! But no! Our Lord has promised that two men would chase not two thousand, but put to flight an army of ten thousand! Thus, when two persons are united in spirit and of the same purpose, the increase in power is tenfold.

To agree over anything or to be of the same mind it takes atleast two persons. Hence when two persons come together in the name of Jesus, God is in the midst of them! When two such people agree about anything on earth and make their supplication to the Lord, the Lord in heaven immediately grants it to them! So oneness of heart and unity of the mind is the crying need of the hour!

We know, that when Peter stood up to speak to the crowd on the day of Pentecost, and had barely finished speaking, three thousand people were literally on their feet demanding to know the way to salvation. The Bible records that that

three thousand were baptised and became part of the church. Now what was the secret behind that mighty harvest of souls? The secret is to be found in the opening lines of Acts 2:14 'But Peter standing up with the Eleven ....'. The words 'standing up with the eleven', reveal the secret! Peter was not alone; while Peter stood there facing the crowd and preaching to them, the eleven apostles stood right beside him and upheld him in prayer. They were of the same mind! No Wonder, they could reap such a bountiful harvest of souls!

Unity in the spirit makes prayer invincible! Unity in the spirit breaks down every barrier of satan! Unity in the spirit brings down the blessings of Heaven, on the family! Unity of the spirit claims the nations of the world for the Lord!

Samson, used a novel device to defeat the Philistines. He caught hold of three hundred foxes. Took them pair by pair. Tied their tails together with a burning firebrand in the middle. He then turned them loose in the fields of standing corn of the Philistines. The fields along with the vineyards of grapes and olive-groves were ruined by the fire.

In brief, two foxes - one firebrand - destruction of the enemy.

Ordinarily, if two foxes are tied to each other by their tails, they will each try to pull in the opposite direction. But as the burning firebrand was in the middle they both ran in the same direction.

Likewise, when the Holy Spirit of the Lord anoints the church, oneness of heart and unity of the mind will prevail amongst the believers. Then the passion for souls and revival of the church and the nation will take possession of them. They will plunge into the ministry of the Lord with such fervour and zeal that individuals, families, institutions and the very nations will turn whole-heartedly to the Lord!

There are certain things which hinder oneness of heart and unity of the mind amongst the believers. They are bitterness, hatred, anger and vengeance. It is therefore, imperative that such things are dealt with soundly and removed with earnest prayer and fasting. Unity of the spirit should prevail first and foremost between a man and his wife. Before retiring to bed at night, they should get down on their knees and have a quiet time of prayer and fellowship with the Lord. Then they should unitedly pray for all the prayer requests of various people and for the nations of the world. If this is done faithfully and in right earnest, the Lord will hear their prayers. Not only that, their home will be a heaven on earth, because the presence of the Lord will be in their abode always!

The one great factor that contributes towards oneness in the spirit is love! It is the love of God Himself alone which has no selfish motive behind it, the love which is known in Greek as Agape. This is the love of which is written in I Cor. Chap.13. This "Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy.....bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things". This is the kind of love that we should earnestly seek in prayer, and ask the Lord to fill us with His kind of love every whit so that we become his channels of blessings to our home, society and nation.

When the love of God fills our hearts, then a blessed unity will prevail amongst the church. This was the kind of love and unity that our Lord expected among his disciples, "I in them, and you in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as you have loved Me". (John Cha.17 Vs.23).

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity....for there the Lord commanded the blessing, life for evermore" (Psalm 133: 1,3).

Most churches in the world around, have become cold and formal; their services are dull and dreary; they lack the warmth, the vibrancy and the heavenly joy They ought to have, as the Lord's representatives on earth. The fires of revival that are kindled now and then by some evengelistic campaign, are not continually fed by the local churches and this is so because the churches which should be the reservoirs of heavenly power, pulsating with the dynamic power of the Holy Spirit, are so taken up with the rudiments and traditions of men, that they in the process have become spiritually dead.

The root cause to this sad state of things are tack of godly love, lack of unity among the brethren and lack of oneness in the spirit!

One is stunned and bewildered at the innumberable divisions, denominations, sects and even cults that have crept into Christendom today. New sects and denominations are springing up rapidly, all over the world. And instead of fighting the enemy, most of the denominations and sects are busily engaged in fighting each other. Bad as that is, many churches also indulge in bitter strife and division, even among their own congregation. The spirit of division, of strife, of envy and anger that are generated at some of elections in the churches, have to be seen to be believed! This and many such other incidents harm the testimony of the church before an unbelieving and skeptical world.

The thought that we as Christians are soldiers of God's army and that any division among our ranks would be the cause of a major victory for the enemy, should be engraved in the heart of every Christian.

Therefore let us fervently pray to the Lord for His holy love to be shed abroad in our hearts, and that the unity of mind and oneness of heart would prevail among His children everywhere Then and only then can the mighty fire of revival

break among the people.Remember that "they were all with one accord in one place". Acts 2:1.

Therefore let us join our hands and heart and stand shoulder to shoulder and assist each other in the mighty task of spreading the gospel, everywhere.

Chapter 10

WEAPON - PRAYER AND FASTING

For patients who are afflicted with chronic sicknesses and who fail to respond to conventional method of treatment, it is customary for doctors to prescribe a course of rigorous diet, along with the medicines to help speed up recovery from illness. In the same way, in times when it is difficult to overcome trials and troubles caused by Satan by the usual mode of prayer and other such things, fasting is recommended as the ultimate means for victory. This method was advocated by our very Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting" Mark 9:29.

Some devils flee when rebuked. Some will go only when we steadfastly resist them (James 4:7). Some tremble at the name of Jesus and run away. But certain types of witchcraft and necromancy can go only when fasting is resorted to, in addition to prayer.

The very thought of fasting is bitter and unpalatable to many people. They are prepared to do anything and everything, except the one thing, that is fasting. Then there are some people who want the preacher, the evangelist or the teacher to do fasting for them. But they themselves will never fast, even for a single day, for the problems they have.

During fasting, the body is brought under control, and the soul is strengthened spiritually. The lusts of the body are nullified and there is a freedom in the spirit. True, the outer man is weakened physically, but the inner man is strengthened spiritually.

Eating can also lead one into sin, harmless though it seems. Remember, that the first man fell through eating of the

forbidden fruit. Yes, mankind's sorry tale of woe and misery started with eating the wrong fruit in the garden of Eden! And our Lord Jesus Christ who is the author of our salvation, started his redemptive work, first by fasting forty days in the wilderness!

1. Flesh-our first enemy!

As Christians we have the task of overcoming three formidable foes. The flesh, the world and satan. The first foe that attempts to draw man to his ruin is the flesh.

St.Paul says that he sees "another law in my members warring against the law of the mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin, which is in my members.

O wretched man that I am! who will deliver me from this body of death?

I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin" (Rom 7:23-25).

It is quite evident that St.Paul, during the early days of his ministry had considerable trouble, in overcoming his battle with the flesh. But, he was not overcome, but found victory through fasting. For he says "But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. (1 Cor.9:27).

When the dead body of a man is placed on the pyre and the pyre lit for burning, a strange thing happens. Owing to the intense heat caused by the flames, the body that is laid down to burn will suddenly spring up, as if come back to life. Then the person who is in charge will be seen to hit the body, with a big stick to make it prostrate and thus burn out quickly. During the process of burning this may occur several times and the man incharge has to often use his strong stout stick to get the job done.

Sometimes, Christians, who are "dead in Christ" face similar trouble when fleshly appetite and lusts, seem to bring back the old carnal man" in view. Then, it is imperative for us to quench these unholy lusts with the 'rod' of fasting and prayer. The only remedy for lack of patience, the unholy anger and sinful thoughts and lusts is fasting!

Fasting breaks the power of self-will and sinful lusts over our life. And besides, it enables the inner man to converse with Christ and be strengthened spiritually.

2. The weapon of queen Esther-Fasting.

Haman had become the avowed enemy of all the Jews in the king Ahasuerus' empire. He vowed that he would put every Jew in the kingdom to death and, that was no empty threat, either. He had the emperor's decree to back up his threat, and so he was busily making preparations for the day, when the Jews would be decimated.

Queen Esther knew that time was short, and that she had to act quickly to save her people from the impending doom The only sure and effective way that she knew was fasting! Fasting and praying to the Lord God Almighty in Heaven was her only weapon available at this terrible onslaught of the enemy against her people.

So, she along with her ladies-in-waiting, her uncle Mordecai and all the Jews that were in Shushan, went on a fasting for three days and three nights without drinking water or taking food.

God heard their cry; and wicked Haman was no match for the mighty weapon that Queen Esther used against him. Haman and his ten sons and all the enemies of the Jews were hung on the very gallows that Haman erected for Mordecai and the Jews.

3. The weapon of King Jehoshaphat-Fasting.

King Jehoshaphat and his people round were attacked by the Ammonites and the other people round about. With their enemies king Jehoshaphat was greatly outnumbered in strength and supplies. So he also resorted to the mighty weapon of fasting. "And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah" (II Chronicles 20:2).

The prayer of the king and his people is recorded in II Chro 20:5-13. When they had finished praying the Spirit of the Lord came down upon a certain Levite and he prophesied saying, "Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's....you will not need to fight in this battle .stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, who is with you.", (II Chron. 20:15,17).

After they had fasted and heard the Lord speak to them, the people were greatly encouraged and began to sing and praise the Lord. And the Lord did a miracle. The Ammonites and the hosts which came up against them rose against each other and killed one another. Thus the armies of the enemies were completely destroyed.

Similarly when we fast and pray and seek the Lord's help in solving our problems, the Lord will surely hear us and take the battle out of our hands and fight our battles. Victory is surely ours! Therefore, never be discouraged but seek the Lord in prayer and fasting; the Lord is with you!

4. The weapon of Jesus Christ-Fasting.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, obviously, believed that "prevention is better than cure". So before He could start His ministry on earth and before He faced the onslaught of the enemy and before He could destroy the works of the devil, He

equipped Himself spiritually by fasting and praying in the wilderness for forty days.

Therefore, when satan did attack Him, not once, but thrice, our Lord was well able to put him to flight! Later, the angels of God ministered unto Him.

If fasting was necessary for our Lord Himself, then how much more vital is it to us, who are engaged in battling with evil forces around us! The Bible records that even his disciples fasted and prayed on many occasions!

5. Certain rules regarding fasting!

(a) Be specific.

Instead of fasting in general for various things in a vague manner, it is better that one purpose be kept in view and prayed for unceasingly. Avoid distractions and keep your mind steadily on your goal.

(b) Fasting must be accompanied with fervent prayer. Fasting is not mere abstinence from food. Much time should be given for prayer. The heart should also be full of faith.

(c) It is necessary for us to humble ourselves before God in true repentance. Proud and sinful thoughts should be cast away. "I humbled myself with fasting" Psalm 35:13. "When I wept and chastened my soul with fasting" (Psalm 69:10).

(d) Fasting should be taken with due regard to one's bodily health, constitution and powers of endurance. The duration of the festing should also vary accordingly.

The period of fasting can be from one day to three days (Esther 4:13-16) and also like king David (II Sam 12:16-23) or twenty one days like Daniel (Dan 10:3-13). The longest period of fasting as recorded in the Bible is forty days. Moses, Joshua, Elijah and

our Lord Jesus Christ all fasted for forty days. It is better not to exceed the period of fasting longer than this.

(e) When a person who is a new-born believer decides to go on fasting for extended periods, it is better it is done under the guidance and supervision of his pastor or any other person who is a mature Christian. For, satan is liable to attack persons when they are fasting and are not sufficiently mature in the Lord.

(f) Normally, fasting means abstinence from all types of food solid and liquid with only a little water taken now and then. But in certain types of fasting, liquid foods like an occassional glass of fruit juice or taking a light supper during the night is also done. This may be termed as partial fasting. Rigorous fasting, like not even taking water, is done by some people. However, this type of fasting should not be taken by sick or elderly people.

(g) It is important that fastings should be done without much publicity and fan-fare. If long periods of time are involved, it is better not to publicise the fast.

(h) Finally, one should not engage in fasting too often. Especially, when one is married, as this may sometimes lead to strife in the marital relationship. It is good to be moderate in all things, even in fasting! (ICor. 7:5)

Chapter 11

PRAISE YE THE LORD!

Usually people who are 'tough' under any type of trial, depression and sorrow and usually those people whose spirits are always buoyant, and vibrant with joy and energy are invariably the people who are accustomed to praise the Lord under all circumstances.

'Praise to the Lord' enabled the walls of Jericho to fall flat before the armies of Israel "....and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat...." (Josh 6:20). The sacrifice of praise from your lips will bring down the enemy's fortresses and open a new door in your life!

Paul and Silas were put in stocks and their feet in fetters. But from their lips broke forth an anthem of praise unto the Lord Most High. In the midnight, in the dark they sang and behold an earthquake shook the prison and shook off the chains and fetters from their hands and feet. And not only that, it brought salvation to the jailer and his 'household' (Acts 16:25).

Ours songs of praise gladdens the heart of our lovely Lord. Remember He is the one "who inhabits the praises of Israel". The psalmist says: "I will bless the Lord at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth".

1. Let Judah arise!

After the death of Joshua the armies of Israel were to possess the land of Israel. The people asked the Lord as to which tribe should lead them into battle against the Canaanites. The Lord answered that the tribe of Judah should go up first.

Judah means "I will praise the Lord" (Gen 29:35). Praising the Lord can be likened to blowing of trumpet which leads the army into the battle. The tribe of Judah were the ones to capture the City of Jerusalem from the Jebusites. Even our Lord Jesus Christ sprang from the tribe of Judah! So let us fill our mouths with praise to our God.

2.The trumpet of Gideon

Now many will wonder as to how praise could be termed as a weapon of war! The answer can be found in the Lord's dealing with Gideon. When Gideon and his three hundred men attacked the camp of the Midianites during the night, all the weapons they had in their possession were an earthern pitcher, a lamp, and a trumpet. When they attacked, they broke the pitcher, revealing the lamp inside and blew the trumpet. The pitcher could be likened to our earthly bodies, and our will. When this is brought under control or our carnal nature crucified, then the Holy Spirit enables the new life of the spirit the inner man to shine forth and when we do this the spirit of praise wells up from within us, thus attacking and subduing the forces of the enemy. When the Spirit of praise burst forth, the Lord caused the Midianites to fight each other and the Lord destroyed the enemies of Israel. (Judges 7:22)

3. Praise ye the Lord!

Once a devout child of God was passing through a time of much trial and sorrow. He was being tossed to and fro on the sea of adversity. He was so much in despair that he could not even pray properly. Then suddenly a thought struck him. He decided to go through the Old Testament and the New Testament to find out, how God dealt with His children in their time of trouble. When he began to read the scriptures, praise began to rise up from within him, when he realized how great His God was! Then faith began to be activated within him and he believed that God was able to help him as He did to the

people in the past. Then as he began to praise God the Lord miraculously delivered him from all the trouble that had been pressing him.

"Bless the Lord, Oh! my soul and forget not all His benefits" (Psalm 103:2)

4. His mercy endureth forever!

"But the Lord plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife" Gen 12:7. Remember the Lord fights your battles. He is the one who pleads your case!

"And blessed be God Most High who has delivered your enemies into your hand" Gen 14:20.

This was the blessings wherewith king Melchizedek of Salem blessed Abraham. So let us also bless the God of Abraham who had blessed Abraham thus.

The Lord Almighty warned Laban by a dream. He said, "Be careful that you speak to Jacob neither good nor bad." Gen 31:24. Therefore let us praise Him who is able to defend His children against their foes by a dream!

When Jacob, filled with terror because of his brother Esau who was out to seek his life, cried out to the Lord, the Lord was able to turn the vengeance of Esau into peace and thus protect Jacob. Therefore, let us praise Him who is able to turn a foe into a friend! Alleluia!

When the sons of Jacob, overcame their enemies at Shechem, nobody pursued them, though they were few in number, since God put a terror in their hearts. Thank God for sending a terror and fear amongst the enemies of God's children as they were unable to do anything. They were paralysed by fear!

"To Him who alone does great wonders for His mercy endures for ever" Psalm 136:4.

To increase the faith of Israel God performed miracles. He turned the rod of Moses into a serpent and turned Moses, hand to be leprous and healed it again! (Exodus 4:1-14) He does great things past finding out. Yes, wonders without number. Job 9:10.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

'To him who struck Egypt in their first born. For His Mercy endures forever:

And brought out Israel from among them,

For His mercy endures forever;

To Him who divided the Red Sea in two

For His mercy endures forever;

And made Israel pass through the midst of it

For His mercy endures forever;

To Him who led His people through the wilderness

For His mercy endures forever.

The same Lord who so miraculously delivered the Israelites centuries ago, is still living and is able to do the same mighty deeds as in the past. Therefore, let us praise Him for He is unchangeable! Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever!

Praise the Lord God Almighty who smote the Amalekites and fought for Israel, when Moses stretched his rod against them (Exodus 17:8-14). Praise God, who smote the inhabitants of Ai, when Joshua stretched forth his hand against them (Joshua 8:18). Therefore let us lift our hearts in praise towards our Lord God Almighty and He will fight our battles for us. Alleluia!

The Lord heeded the prayer of a mere mortal like Joshua and made the Sun stand still over Gideon and the Moon over Ai, till he obtained the victory. Therefore let us praise Him who said:"Concerning the work of my hands command ye Me!"Alleluia!

The Lord promised to deliver the giant Og, King of Bashan into the hand of Moses and God kept His promise and did the same. Therefore praise Him who is faithful to keep His Word. What He has promised to do for us, He will do! Amen!

Sisera, a general of the armies of Canaan came against Israel with nine hundred iron chariots. However the Lord fought for Israel:"They fought from the heavens, the stars from their courses fought against Sisera"(Joshua 5:20,21).

'That torrent of Kishon, swept them away,

That ancient torrent, the torrent of Kishon' (Judges 5:20,21).

Praise God, who makes even the forces of Nature fight on our behalf.

If God is on our behalf even the insect world will be in our defence. When we turn the pages of the Old Testament, we find God did just that in the books of Exodus and Joshua. we find that God sent hordes of hornets against the armies of the Canaanites, Hivites and Hittites who stung them so badly, that they had to flee from the battle field. Thus the victory was got for Israel. (Deut Chap 23:28 and Josh 24:12) Therefore, let us praise Him who makes even the forces of nature to battle on our behalf!

Even weak, insipid things in the world can become mighty weapons of war when yielded in the mighty Hands of our Lord. Samson was able to slay thousands with only a jawbone of an ass. David was able to fell down the dreaded Goliath with only a sling and a pebble. Gideon and his handful of war-

riors went to battle against the multitudes of Midian, armed only with an earthern pot, lamp and a trumpet, and Moses had only a rod wherewith to do all the wonderful miracles. Yes, our God is Almighty, He is wonderful. He can change even a worm into a powerful instrument with teeth. On the slopes of the mountain near the Sea of Galilee, a young lad gave a basket of five loaves and two small fishes to our Lord, and that was enough to feed the five thousand.

Jephthah poured out his tale of sorrow and woe at Mizpah (Judges 11:11) Mizpah means watch-tower. Our God delivered him from all his enemies and granted him victory. Praise Him for He is able to do the same today.

When the prophet Samuel offered sacrifices to the Lord, the Philistines were advancing on Israel with their armies. The Lord heard his prayers and rained down thunder-bolts from heaven and discomfited the host of the Philistines! He will do the same for you. Praise Him!

The sword, shield, and spear of Goliath did not give him the victory. He was struck dead by a single pebble. Therefore do not fear men who come against you with their power, authority and riches. The name of our Lord Jesus is able to put them to defeat.

The Lord of Hosts was with David. II Sam 5:6. Though Saul diligently searched for David every day, he was defeated. God was with David (I Sam 23:14). David encouraged himself in the Lord (II Sam 30:6). David increased in favour day by day (II Sam 5:6).

The God of David is our God also. So He will do the same for us. Alleluia!

Go through the Bible and find out how the Lord fights for His people and praise Him.

Remember, your problem is but a small thing before the greatness of God Almighty.

Jehoshaphat was terrified before the armies of the enemies. But Elisha the prophet said, this is but a small thing in the eyes of the Lord. The victory was Israel's. (II Kings 3:18)

The Lord will perform all things for me. (Psalm 138:8)

My soul, you will tread down the strong and mighty (Judges 5:21).

Let us praise the Lord. For His mercy endureth forever!

HEART TO HEART...!

Dear Reader, *Thank you!*

I have met you through this book. I praise my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ for having granted me this opportunity. The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you! Amen!

I know of no other joyous message in this world than this: "He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today!", and I trust that you have made this joy your very own too! The very fact that my Lord Jesus is alive and with me every moment kindles my faith and instils me with new hope and strength. It enables me to march on victoriously through this world! And so, I wish to pass on this message to every person on this earth, so that their 'joy may be full'.

While I was burdened with this desire, a dear brother and his wife came forward and helped to further the Lord's ministry with their financial aid.

I pray that the Lord Jesus Christ will bless them both with material and spiritual blessings!

They are Mrs. & Mr. Ramesh Pandian & family of Kuwait.

Let us pray that the Lord will bless them 'out of Zion!'

Please do not allow this book to be idle. After you have finished, please pass it on to at least fifty persons. Your contributions will enable more souls to be won to the Lord, by books.

Thank you!

OUR WEAPONS OF WARFARE

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